

## Message Text

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ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 EB-11

MC-02 OMB-01 COME-00 TRSE-00 DRC-01 /111 W

----- 013560

R 032203Z SEP 74

FM AMEMBASSY QUITO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2336

SECDEF WASHDC

INFO USCINCSO

AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

AMEMBASSY LIMA

AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE QUITO 5823

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MILI, EC, US

SUBJ: PRESS QUERIES ON MILITARY SALES TO ECUADOR

1. WITH THE ACCEPTANCE OF THE LETTER OF OFFER ON AUGUST 30 FOR THE PURCHASE OF A-37B'S, THE IMMINENT ARRIVAL OF A SURVEY TEAM FOR ECUADOREAN ARMY HOSPITALS, AIRCRAFT MAINTENANCE AND SUPPLY ADVISORS FOR THE ECUADOREAN AIR FORCE, AND OTHER PENDING EQUIPMENT PURCHASES, THE LIFTING OF THE SUSPENSION OF FMS SALES HAS HAD ITS FIRST PRACTICAL EFFECTS. A VARIETY OF ARMS PEDDLERS HAVE BEEN IN TOWN DURING RECENT WEEKS, AND TWO MORE SIGNIFICANT FMS/MAP AIRCRAFT DEALS ARE IN THE WORKS.

2. WITH ALL THIS ACTIVITY, WE BELIEVE IT WOULD BE USEFUL TO PREPARE FOR THE POSSIBILITY OF PRESS INQUIRIES, PARTICULARLY SINCE IT APPEARS THAT THERE IS A REVIVING PUBLIC INTEREST IN US/LATIN AMERICAN RELATIONS.

3. WE WOULD PROPOSE TO DEFER ALL QUERIES IN QUITO TO THE ECUADOREAN MOD, ON GROUNDS THAT REPLIES ON ECUADOREAN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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POLICIES AND PURCHASES SHOULD COME FROM ECUADOREANS. WE

WOULD CONFINE OURSELVES TO NOTING THE FOLLOWING: "THE LIFTING OF FOREIGN MILITARY SALES (FMS) SANCTIONS, WHICH TOOK PLACE FORMALLY ON FEBRUARY 11, 1974, HAS MADE POSSIBLE THE NORMALIZATION OF MILITARY RELATIONS BETWEEN ECUADOR AND THE UNITED STATES. WE BELIEVE THIS IS A POSITIVE STEP TOWARDS THE IMPROVEMENT OF OUR OVERALL RELATIONS WITH ECUADOR."

4. WE SUGGEST THE DEPARTMENT USE A SIMILAR REPLY. IF THE DEPARTMENT IS ASKED ABOUT US ASSISTANCE IN FACILITATING THE SALE OF SPECIFIC EQUIPMENT (SHIPS, TYPES OF AIRCRAFT, ETC), WE WOULD RECOMMEND REFERRING THE QUESTIONER TO THE ECUADOREAN GOVERNMENT WITH A STATEMENT SUCH AS THE FOLLOWING: "THE ECUADOREAN GOVERNMENT HAS INDICATED A PREFERENCE FOR ALL MILITARY EQUIPMENT PURCHASES TO BE UNDER FMS. THEY HAVE ASKED FOR ASSISTANCE IN CONSUMMATING CERTAIN CONTRACTS AND EVALUATING OTHERS. WE HAVE TRIED TO BE OF HELP WHERE WE COULD. AS TO THEIR INTEREST OR INTENTIONS WITH RESPECT TO SPECIFIC TYPES OF EQUIPMENT, AIRCRAFT, OR SHIPS, I WOULD HAVE TO SUGGEST THAT THE QUESTION BE PUT DIRECTLY TO THE ECUADOREAN GOVERNMENT."

5. EMBASSY WOULD BE GRATEFUL FOR COMMENTS OR EMENDATIONS TO THE ABOVE. IN THE MEANTIME, WE WILL USE IT IF QUESTIONS ARE ASKED HERE.  
BREWSTER

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NNN

## Message Attributes

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**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Draft Date:** 03 SEP 1974  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** shawdg  
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**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
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